

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. These claims are amended above to place them in better form for U.S. practice, e.g. those claims previously in improper multi-dependent form for U.S. practice have been amended to place them in proper multi-dependent or singly dependent form. No dedication, disclaimer, abandonment, waiver, renunciation or estoppel is intended by the amendments presented above.

Applicants respectfully request the PTO to acknowledge receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119.

Restriction is required among what the PTO deems as being three (3) separate inventions lacking unity of invention. As applicants must make an election, applicants hereby respectfully and provisionally elect Group I without prejudice and without traverse. Elected Group I comprises claims 1-20 (not claims 1-19; claim 20 was not placed in any Group in the Office Action, but clearly belongs in Group I).

As regards Groups II and III, presently only claims 21 and 22, applicants accept the PTO ruling that the Group II and III inventions are directed to separate and patentably distinct inventions.

The PTO has also imposed two (2) election of species requirements. As to the first of these, applicants respectfully

and provisionally elect "DNA contaminants." As regards the second of these election of species requirements, applicants respectfully and provisionally elect an "antibody". The claims which read on these species are, including of course generic claims, are claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 17-20.

Applicants understand, as stated in the third paragraph on page 4 of the Office Action, that the applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species upon allowance of a generic claim, and applicants are proceeding in reliance thereof. In view of the new rules which are soon to go into effect and which will severely limit applicants' options, the co-operation and assistance of the examiner is respectfully requested to ensure full coverage of applicants' invention without being cut off from further prosecution.

Applicants now respectfully await the results of a first Action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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